

WJEC AS and A Level Music

Newsletter - September 2023

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope you have had a chance to rest and recharge over the summer break.

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1. The Summer Series 2023

We hope that the summer examination series was a success in your centre. The exam papers, marking schemes and audio files have now been uploaded to the secure website for your use, and the Principal Examiners' Reports are available on the main [subject page](#) of the website. These reports contain lots of valuable information and feedback for teachers to aid in planning and teaching.

If you need to request a review of marking or moderation for any Unit, please visit the [Post Results Services](#) area of the website for details. This year all candidates will be able to request access to their exam scripts for free.

Please note that in line with other external assessments there is no centre report for GCE Composing, and the report for GCE Performance covers only the arrangements made, rather than the assessment.

2. Resources

This is an opportunity to remind you that there is a range of free downloadable resources on the [WJEC resources page](#). These include analysis of set works as well as more general materials and knowledge organisers.

In addition, on the website, there is now a simple [teacher' guide](#) to the procedures involved in the different Units. This document addresses a number of frequently asked questions regarding the conduct of the examinations, and the requirements for both Performing and Composing. It has been organised so that there is one page for each unit as a quick summary.

3. Professional Learning / CPD

Music CPD will be split into two types this year. First of all, there will be online events in the autumn term which will give feedback on the exam, using

information from the Principal Examiner's report and a variety of exemplar materials.

20th September – Welsh medium session

21st September – English medium session

After Christmas we will be joining with an external partner to offer some general support for teaching Composing at KS4, in order to provide teachers with the skills and knowledge required to teach candidates for AS and A level, but also to prepare those who intend to go on and study Music at University or Conservatoire. The dates for these events and more details will shortly be published to the website.

4. Visiting Examiners

The September Circular will contain a link to an online form to complete to let us know about your candidates for assessment in Summer 2024. We ask that you complete this as fully as possible so that we can make sure we employ appropriate numbers of examiners, and so that we can begin the complex process of arranging the route. You will be asked to give up to 3 “impossible dates” when you would be unable to accommodate a visiting examiner in your school. If you need to tell us about any further impossible dates, please email music@wjec.co.uk with details of why the dates would be impossible. It is vital that this information is correct as each examiner travels to a number of schools and needs to be able to plan a practical route. If you have not told us that a date is impossible then we will assume that a visit could be arranged on that day. We plan to have the routes completed shortly after Christmas and examiners will contact centres directly to inform them of the details of their planned visit.

5. Set Works Consultation

Towards the end of the summer term, we sent out a consultation regarding changing the Set Works for AS and A level. Thank you to everyone who responded. There was a lot of support for the proposals, but some teachers did raise some important questions. The results are being analysed and the final decisions will be published to the website and shared via a circular as soon as possible.

6. Contact Us

As ever, we are always available to answer your queries. The best way to contact us is via email to music@wjec.co.uk but you can also call us on 029 2240 4300.

Rachel Edwards – Subject Officer Music

Natalie Harvey – Subject Support Officer Music